

BATTLE LINES

APRIL, 2026

VOLUME XXX, ISSUE I

NEWSLETTER OF THE SARATOGA BATTLE CHAPTER, EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Resolution Would Move Annual Meeting to September

By Edward Munger Jr.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter heard a first reading during the Annual Meeting February 22 for a resolution aimed at getting the chapter's semi-annual meeting out of the Month of February.

The resolution would change the Annual Meeting date – when the election of officers is held, marking a point in the two-year officer term – to a meeting to be held in the Autumn. The second meeting would be held in the Spring. The date of each meeting would be set during each prior meeting.

Scheduling the chapter's governing meeting in February is indefensible. February features the most treacherous weather our hometowns can offer. We all love General George Washington, who we've named the Annual Meeting after. As long as we continue to honor the memory of our ancestors who followed Washington into battle, we'll continue to do them all justice.

The chapter will hold a vote on this resolution at the meeting coming up in September. The text of the resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the current Constitution and Bylaws of the Saratoga Battle Chapter require the Annual Meeting to be held on or near Washington's Birthday in February; and

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An estimated 400 people attended the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Knox Noble Trail of Artillery. The handoff from Saratoga County to Albany County took place December 14, 2025 —
Photo by Edward Munger Jr.



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Upcoming Events

Upcoming Color Guard Events

May 22, Friday Repose of the Fallen Ceremony, 11 AM Lake George Battlefield Park.

June 28, Sunday: Herkimer Monument Rededication, 2 p.m. Herkimer Home State Historic Site: 200 NY-169, Little Falls, NY 13365

July 2 – 5 Thursday – Sunday. 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Events for the Declaration of Independence, to be announced, pending details.

July 19th: Sunday, Saratoga Battlefield, Reading of the Declaration of Independence Program @1 PM, Civilian/Militia.

August 22nd: Saturday, Battle of Brooklyn / Maryland 400 Commemoration, at 11:00 AM, Old Stone House, 336 3rd Street, Brooklyn,

September 20: Sunday, Stop 2, Wreath Presentation at Monument to Unknown American Dead, 1 PM.

September 20: Sunday, 4 – 7 PM Saratoga Battle Chapter Semi-Annual Meeting and Banquet. The Factory, 20 Prospect Street, Ballston Spa, NY.

September 27: Sunday, Baylor Massacre, Baylor Massacre Park, Riverdale Road (at Red Oak Drive), River Vale, NJ. Westchester/NJ co-sponsored.

October 11: Sunday, Battle of Valcour Island, Plattsburg

October 16 – 17 Surrender Day Weekend, more details to follow.

December 11-13: Friday to Sunday, Washington Crossing of the Delaware.

Member Planning June 6 Meet-up at Fort Ticonderoga

Saratoga Battle Chapter Compatriot John Bergener is organizing a group meet-up for a tour of historic Fort Ticonderoga at 12:45 pm Saturday, June 6.

General admission at \$21 per-person includes access to the full property including the Carillon Battlefield, gardens and museum exhibits. Daily guided tours, weapons demonstrations and trade work is ongoing such as carpentry, shoemaking and tailoring.

A group could add a private historical introduction led by an historian – a 30 or 45-minute tour can be curated to the group's interest. The 30-minute tour is an extra \$10 per person, 45 minutes is \$15 more.

Learn more about Fort Ticonderoga at fortticonderoga.org.

People interested in the organized group tour can send an email to president@saratogabattle-sar.org with your contact information.

Repose of the Fallen Ceremony May 22 at Lake George Battlefield Park

Reinterment planned for of 44 individuals who perished in 1776 at Fort George military hospital. Location: 34 Fort George Road, Lake George, NY 12845

In February, 2019, contractors unearthed remains in the Village of Lake George and it was learned the site was a cemetery for a smallpox hospital the Continental Army set up in 1776 near Fort George. The Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution donated \$15,000 towards granite benches that are part of the memorial site. Read about the project at the following link: <https://www.reposeofthefallenlg.org/>



New Officers Installed At Annual Meeting

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter welcomed several new officers following elections at the Annual Meeting February 22.

The slate of officers is as follows:

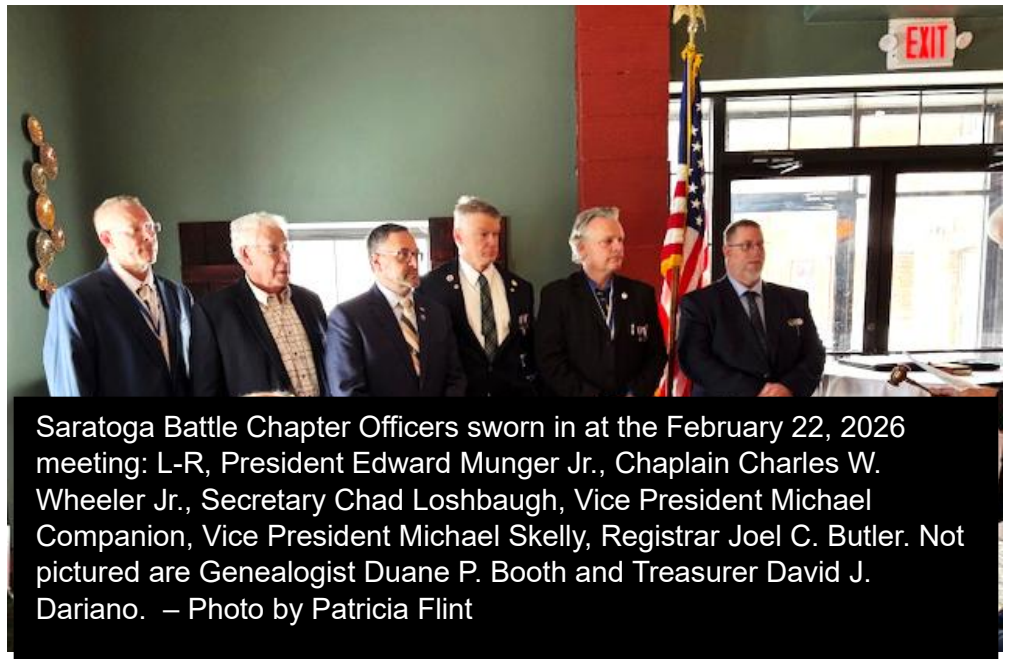
Edward W. Munger, Jr., President; Michael R. Skelly, 1st Vice President; Michael S. Companion, 2nd Vice President; Chad M. Loshbaugh, Secretary; David J. Dariano, Treasurer; Joel C. Butler, Registrar; Duane P. Booth, Genealogist; Karl L. Danneil, Historian; Charles W. Wheeler, Jr., Chaplain. Former Chapter Treasurer David L. Flint agreed to the appointment as Treasurer Pro Tempore during the transitional period.

Flint, who served as treasurer for nearly 10 years, was presented the Henry Knox Award during the meeting by former State and Chapter President Duane P. Booth.

In other business:

- After reviewing options, the chapter agreed to donate \$250 towards the Saratoga 250's educational speaker program. The chapter's donation is supporting the presentation *The Local Struggle* by historian and author James Richmond who uncovers the founding of communities amidst the "War on the Middleline."

- The Chapter presented *The Factory Eatery & Spirits* with a Certificate of Recognition and the gift of a historic Battle of Saratoga post card for its community service and for hosting chapter meetings.



Saratoga Battle Chapter Officers sworn in at the February 22, 2026 meeting: L-R, President Edward Munger Jr., Chaplain Charles W. Wheeler Jr., Secretary Chad Loshbaugh, Vice President Michael Companion, Vice President Michael Skelly, Registrar Joel C. Butler. Not pictured are Genealogist Duane P. Booth and Treasurer David J. Dariano. – Photo by Patricia Flint

Chapter Recognized for Veterans Outreach

*Submitted by Edward
Munger Jr.*



The Saratoga Battle Chapter has received the Partners in Patriotism certificate from the National Society, SAR, in recognition of the chapter's partnership with the Samuel S. Stratton Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, (Albany VA).

The Albany VA is among a list of organizations assisting our nation's veterans, and the SAR's Patriotic Outreach Committee awards the certificate to chapters and state-level societies that participate in organized programs or events with these organizations.

The recognition follows the chapter's submission to the USS Stark Memorial Award program in 2024. The SAR considers the application important to helping organize veteran programs: "When societies and chapters submit the report, they are providing information on their service to Veterans activities. The Veterans Committee uses this information to determine where the strengths and gaps are in the SAR's Veterans programs so we can better serve the Veteran community in the future."

Many thanks to our former Registrar, Compatriot Maj. Michael Golden, who served as the Saratoga Battle Chapter's representative at the Albany VA during that time. Our VP Compatriot Michael Companion secured the certificate for us during the ESSAR meeting held in Binghamton.

Chapter Representative Needed For Veterans Program

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter is seeking a representative with the Albany VA center able to attend quarterly meetings (four times a year). Here are the details from the SAR's Veterans Committee, as previously provided to us: The VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) committees, formerly known as VA Voluntary Services (VAVS), are composed of volunteers representing various organizations who support our Veterans. Each organization on the CDCE committee is allowed one Representative and multiple Deputy Representatives. The role of the Representative and Deputy Representatives is primarily to act as the liaison between the SAR and the CDCE committee at their assigned VAMC. (Albany VA). So when a need is identified, the representative can get that news to the organizations that can assist. The needs/requests vary, but two that occur regularly are food collections for low-income Veterans and their families for Thanksgiving and Angel Tree requests for Christmas. Other requests to support Veterans may arise from natural disasters or specific local needs. Representatives and Deputy Representatives are expected to attend the CDCE committee meetings which occur once a quarter (i.e. 4 times per year). The exact date and times for the meetings are specific to each VAMC. If interested, please contact the chapter president.



New Chapter Treasurer

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

Congratulations and thanks to Compatriot David J. Dariano, far left, who was sworn in as the new Saratoga Battle Chapter Treasurer on April 9, 2026. Dariano and former Treasurer Compatriot David L. Flint, left, gathered with Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. and Chapter Vice President Michael Companion at the bank for signatures that day.

... Annual meeting, continued from Page 1

WHEREAS, inclement winter weather consistently poses a significant safety risk to members traveling to said meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter seeks to ensure maximum participation and the safety of its compatriots by meeting during more temperate seasons; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Article VII MEETINGS of the Chapter Constitution and Section III MEETINGS/or BY-LAWS be amended by striking the existing language regarding the February meeting date and inserting the following:

"The Chapter shall hold at least two regular meetings annually: the Annual Meeting, to be held in the Autumn, and a second regular meeting to be held in the Spring. The specific dates and locations for these meetings shall be determined by a vote of the membership at the meeting immediately preceding them."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following Proviso shall be adopted to facilitate this transition:

PROVISO: All officers currently serving, as well as those elected at the current meeting, shall have their terms of office extended until the first Annual Meeting held in the Autumn following the adoption of this amendment, to ensure the continuity of Chapter leadership and the secure management of Chapter records and assets.

Members with thoughts or concerns please send an email to: president@saratogabattle-sar.org

Cadets to be Recognized Through Chapter SAR ROTC Program

Congratulations to our local Reserve Officers Training Corps students recognized by their learning institutions this year. Receiving the SAR's Silver ROTC Medal & Certificate are as follows:

Cadet Mark Goodenow - Siena University.

A compatriot interested in presenting the Sons of the American Revolution Award please contact the chapter president. Siena's awards ceremony will be hosted at 5pm on April 16, 2026, at the Lonnstrom Dining Hall at Siena University, formerly Sena College.

Cadet Noah Johnson - RPI

Cadet Noah Jonson is an outstanding AS300 who attended Field Training last summer and received a leadership score of 91%! He is an Aeronautical Engineering major who aspires to become an AF aviator. He scored an 87 on the Pilot section of his Air Force Officer's Qualifying test and earned a 92.6% on his Physical Fitness Test. Noah is always the first to volunteer to help another cadet in need and routinely gives up his personal time to worthy causes. He is heavily involved in our drill team and helped lead the team to a 1st Place Title at the Rensselaer Rumble Joint Military Excellence Competition.

A compatriot interested in presenting this award is encouraged to contact the chapter president. The event details are as follows: Cadet Change of Command & Awards Ceremony on Tue, 15 April from 0800-0900 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's Mueller Center/Armory facility.

Restaurant Receives Certificate of Recognition



Chapter President Edward Munger Jr. presented Manager Cara Gifford with a Certificate of Appreciation and the gift of a framed Battle of Saratoga oversized Post Card – one of several donated to the Chapter by a Saratoga Springs family.

The award following the approval, by unanimous vote, of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Saratoga Battle Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution seeks to honor those in our community who provide exceptional support to our mission of patriotic, historical, and educational outreach; and WHEREAS, The Factory Eatery & Spirits, under the dedicated leadership of Cara Gifford, has served as a steadfast home for our bi-annual meetings for several years; and WHEREAS, the establishment is housed within a beautifully preserved historic factory building that echoes the industrious spirit of Ballston Spa – a village that stood as a witness to the Northern Campaign of the American Revolution; and WHEREAS, the management and staff have consistently demonstrated excellence through their "wonderful" culinary offerings and a level of kindness and professionalism that ensures our compatriots feel truly at home; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Saratoga Battle Chapter extends its profound gratitude to Cara Gifford and the entire team at The Factory Eatery & Spirits; and be it further RESOLVED, that this Certificate of Appreciation be presented this day as a formal testament to our enduring partnership and our sincere thanks for their role in helping us keep the history of our ancestors alive.

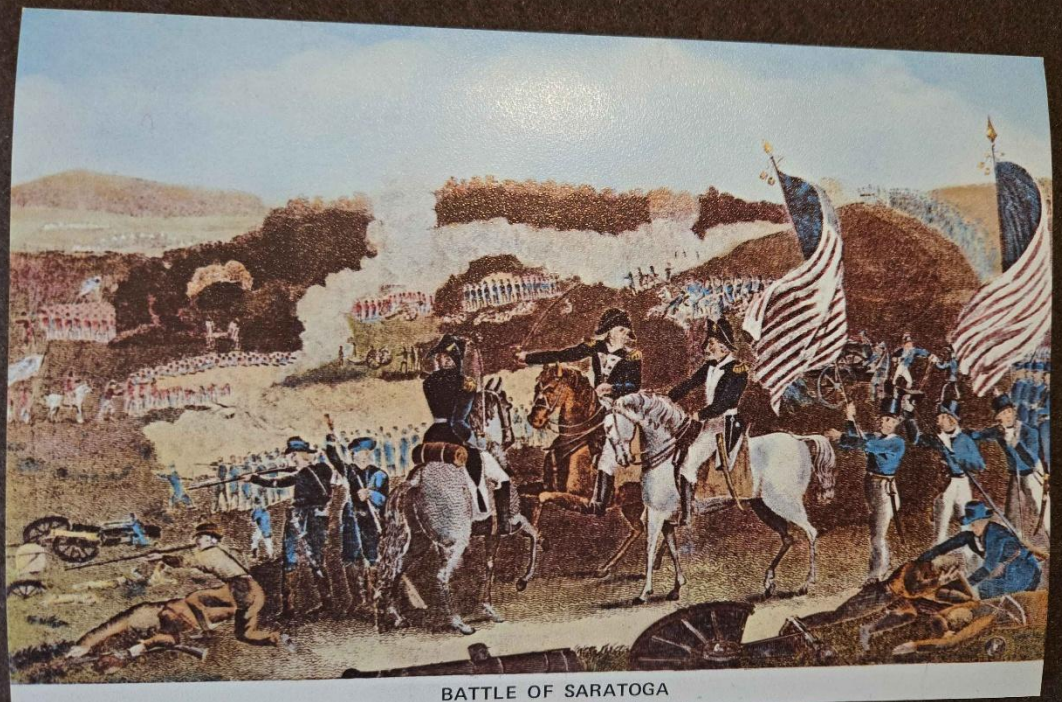


Chapter Receives Donation of Historic Post Cards

Submitted by Edward Munger Jr.

The Saratoga Battle Chapter received a gift from Willard E. & Holly Grande of Saratoga Springs consisting of a box of Oversized Post Cards commemorating the Battle of Saratoga. The post cards are in excellent condition. On the back of the cards, it states "1777 and then below there appears to be a blackened out 1776 after the headline "BATTLE OF SARATOGA." It states "From an early woodcut by Woodruff is the scene showing an engagement of arms. This Battle is considered by many historians as the turning point of the American Revolution. The Area is now a National Park." The center back of the card reads: "Original Photographs hand-colored by George S. Bolster - 1975."

The Grandes received a letter from the Chapter President, along with one of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution ESSAR coins as a token of appreciation.



Wreath Event and Scouts Make SAR National Magazine

Many thanks to Compatriot Wilford LeForestier for sending the image to the SAR Magazine of the joint SAR & DAR Wreath Presentation at the DAR Monument to Unknown American Dead at Saratoga Battlefield in September 2025. It was the first year we were joined by the Scouts for the memorial event.



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Battle Lines is the periodic newsletter of the Saratoga Battle Chapter, Empire State Society, Sons of the American Revolution. Editor: Edward Munger Jr. Please send articles and photos to president@saratogabattle-sar.org